

Appl. No. 10/706,483

Amdt. Dated 2/28/2006

Response to Office action dated 03/16/2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-32, 42, 43, 45, 55, 56, 58 and 61-69 are pending. Claims 33-37, 46-50 and 70-71 have been canceled. Claims 1-32, 42, 43, 45, 55, 56, 58 and 61-69 were allowed.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Claims 33-37, 46-50 and 70-71 have been canceled notwithstanding the belief that these claims were allowable. Except as specifically admitted below, no claim elements have been narrowed. Claims 33-37, 46-50 and 70-71 have been canceled solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and the amendments were not necessary for patentability.

Any reference herein to "the invention" is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this Application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this Application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Interview February 23, 2006

The Practitioner thanks the Examiner for the in-person interview of February 23, 2006. Consistent with the interview, the Practitioner is canceling rejected claims 33-37 and 46-50 in favor of the claims previously indicated as allowable to reissue.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 33-37 and 46-50 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious from Kurtz et al. (USP 5,660,719) in view of Block (*Disinfection, Sterilization, and Preservation*, 4th edition). Claims 33-37 and 46-50 have been canceled.

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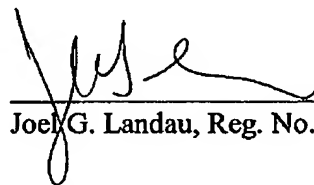
Conclusion

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 28, 2006



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